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PATENT

JUL 18 2006

REMARKS

Claims 9-35 are pending in the present application. Of these, claims 16-34 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action mailed January 18, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 9-15 and 35.

Claim Objections

Claims 9-15 and 35 are objected to.

Applicants amend independent claim 9 to add --the inner quality metric--. This amendment is fully supported by Applicants' specification as originally filed.

Applicants amend independent claim 35 to add --the inner quality metric--. This amendment is fully supported by Applicants' specification as originally filed.

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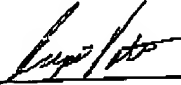
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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 18, 2006

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